Improper Working of Coin-Operated PCOs Booth in Hyderabad

443. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a majority of coin-operated phone booths or PCOs in Hyderabad are not working properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglect of proper maintenance and management the coin-operated phone booths in Hyderabad telecom;

(c) whether this willful neglect is causing hardship to the public;

(d) the steps proposed to review the system of maintenance of PCOs in Hyderabad;

(e) whether a private agency is handling this work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. Majority of coin-operated PCO booths in Hyderabad are working satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Regular maintenance is being carried out to keep them in working condition.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Theft of Telephone Cables in Delhi

444. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of telephone cables that occurred in Delhi in 1996;

(b) whether these thefts can be checked by replacing the present cables with the optical fibre cables;

(c) if so, whether the MTNL had taken a decision sometimes back to replace the present cables with the optical fibre cables; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in the work of replacement of cables?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 220.

(b) to (d) All inter-exchange junction cable have already been replaced by Optical Fibre cables. However, there is no plan to replace the local network underground copper cables.

Revised Call Tariff of STD

445. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering rescheduling the STD time slab with revised call tariff;

(b) the details in this regard and the time from which it will be effected;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that this new time slab is likely to cause inconvenience greatly to the subscribers; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir, the rescheduling of STD time slab with revised call tariff has already been implemented with effect from 15th February, 1997.

(b) The details are given in Statement (See below)

(c) No Sir, on the contrary the traffic congestion which subscribers faced during certain parts of the day has been eased.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c).